Social Responsibilities of Public Schools

*577. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to force public schools in the country to be strict to the Supreme Court guidelines for discharging their social responsibilities, without commercialising the education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure compliance of the guidelines; and

(d) what action would be taken against the public schools which do not follow the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) Government is not aware of any Supreme Court guidelines in respect of Public Schools for discharging their social responsibilities without commercialisation of education. However, Government is making efforts in this direction.

Cyclone shelter in Orissa

* 578. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a super cyclone had swept across fourteen more prosperous districts of Orissa in 1999, when the turbulent storm killed over ten thousand people and three lakh cattle, besides damaging twenty-one lakh hectares of crops and felling about nine crore trees;

(b) whether it is also a fact that neither the Central Government nor the Orissa Government added a single cyclone shelter to the existing ones before the sea storm, and the post disaster coordination work was being done by a UN agency; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. This is the approximate cumulative damage caused by the two cyclones of October, 1999, including the Super cyclone.